



LETTER SENT BY E-MAIL ONLY

12 May 2023

2023/24-005

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

Request

Please find below our response to your correspondence dated 1 May 2023, in which you made the following request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002:

Please may you provide me with:

- The total amount spent in the last five financial years on public relations, both in-house and externally (split if possible).
- The total number of public relations officers or communications officers employed by your organisation over the last five years

Please provide the information in the form of an Excel spreadsheet if at all possible.

Response

Your request for information has been considered and the Scottish Police Authority is able to provide the following.

The Authority's financial ledgers for the relevant account code 'advertising and public relations' shows the following total spend for SPA Corporate and SPA Forensic Services over the last five years.

Total spend on advertising and public relations

	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23
SPA Corporate	£2,869	£2,030	£880	Nil	£12,750*
SPA Forensic Services	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

* Spend in 2022-23 was higher than previous years due to recruitment for the Chief Constable post.

There was no 'advertising and public relations' spend incurred by SPA Forensics Services in the last five years.

The above shows expenditure by SPA Corporate only. We would advise that overall expenditure is publicly available in the Annual Report and Accounts - this figure includes costs incurred by Police Scotland. A link is provided to [Report and Accounts](#) for previous years, and to assist, expenditure on public relations over the last five years is shown below. (Please note the Annual Report and Accounts for 2022-23 will be published later this year).

17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
£301,000	£240,000	£279,000	£279,000	£343,000

The table below shows the number of full time equivalent individuals employed over the last five years in communication roles.

Communications Officers employed – full time equivalent (FTE)

	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23
SPA Corporate	2	2	2	2	2
SPA Forensic Services	-	1	1	1	2*

* One additional resource joined in January 2023

The Scottish Police Authority's corporate function currently has 1 FTE External Relations Officer and 1 FTE External Relations and Governance Lead of which communications is one part of broader responsibilities.

SPA Forensic Services currently has 1 FTE Communication and Engagement Specialist and 1 FTE Communications and Engagement Officer.

Right to Review

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been dealt with you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to foi@spa.police.uk or by post to Corporate Management Team, Scottish Police Authority, 1 Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1DZ.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision.

You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Scottish Police Authority Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.